

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for testing a network system by controlling, by a data controller in a network device, communication data transferred between an external device connected to the network device via a network and a plurality of virtual machines in the network device, comprising:

a reception step of receiving the communication data;

a judgment step of judging whether the received communication data coincides with the condition by referring to a test access control list which defines association between a condition concerning an attribute of the communication data and an action serving as a process of permitting or rejecting communication of the communication data; and

an execution step of executing, when it is judged in the judgment step that the communication data coincides with the condition, the process serving as the action in the test access control list.

2. A method for testing a network system according to claim 1, wherein the condition concerning the attribute of the communication data includes address information for identifying the location on the network of the external

device or the network device serving as a transmitter or a receiver of the communication data, and

the judgment step includes judgment of whether address information included in the received communication data coincides with the condition concerning the attribute of the communication data.

3. A method for testing a network system according to claim 1, further comprising an addition step of adding, to the received communication data, a necessary attribute for judging whether the communication data coincides with the condition in the judgment step.

4. A computer-readable medium encoded with a network-system testing program for causing a computer to operate as a network device controlling communication data transferred between external devices interconnected via a network, the program causing the computer to perform a process comprising:

a reception step of receiving communication data transmitted from one of the external devices or communication data transmitted from a virtual machine in the network device;

a judgment step of judging whether the received communication data coincides with the condition by referring

to a test access control list which defines association between a condition concerning an attribute of the communication data and an action serving as a process of permitting or rejecting communication of the communication data; and

an execution step of executing, when it is judged in the judgment step that the communication data coincides with the condition, the process serving as the action in the test access control list.

5. A computer-readable medium encoded with a network-system testing program according to claim 4, wherein the condition concerning the attribute of the communication data includes address information for identifying the location on the network of the external device or the network device serving as a transmitter or a receiver of the communication data, and

wherein the judgment step includes judgment of whether address information included in the received communication data coincides with the condition of the attribute of the communication data.

6. A computer-readable medium encoded with a network-system testing program according to claim 4, the program further comprising:

an attribute adding step of adding, to the received communication data, a necessary attribute for judging whether the communication data coincides with the condition in the judgment step.

7. A network-system testing apparatus for controlling communication data transferred between external devices interconnected via a network, comprising:

reception means for receiving communication data transmitted from one of the external devices or communication data transmitted from a virtual machine in the network device;

a test access control list which defines association between a condition concerning an attribute of the communication data and an action serving as a process of permitting or rejecting communication of the communication data when the communication data coincides with the condition;

judgment means for judging, by referring to the test access control list, whether the received communication data coincides with the condition; and

execution means for executing the action in the test access control list when it is judged by the judgment means that the communication data coincides with the condition.

8. A network-system testing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the condition concerning the attribute(s) of the communication data includes address information for identifying the location on the network of the external device or the network device serving as a transmitter or a receiver of the communication data, and

the judgment means judges whether address information included in the received communication data coincides with the condition concerning the attribute(s) of the communication data.

9. A network-system testing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising attribute adding means for adding, to the received communication data, a necessary attribute for judging, by the judgment means, whether the communication data coincides with the condition.